

## Senate Study Bill 1031 - Introduced

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS RESOLUTION  
BY CHAIRPERSON BEALL)

1 A Concurrent Resolution supporting the establishment of  
2 a veterans national recovery center at the former  
3 Veterans Affairs Hospital campus in Knoxville, Iowa.  
4 WHEREAS, Iowa has a proud tradition of supporting  
5 veterans who have fought to protect us all; and  
6 WHEREAS, the history of war is such that veterans  
7 do not need to bleed to be injured, evidenced by  
8 "soldier's heart" in the Civil War, "shell shock" in  
9 World War II, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)  
10 and traumatic brain injury (TBI) today, demonstrating  
11 that what veterans see and experience can change them  
12 in profound ways; and  
13 WHEREAS, society is only beginning to understand  
14 how these potentially lifelong conditions affect the  
15 ability of the returning veteran to adapt to society,  
16 often resulting in homelessness, drug addiction, and  
17 suicide, even though these emotional and physiological  
18 wounds remain unseen unlike physical injuries from  
19 combat; and  
20 WHEREAS, nationwide there are an estimated 126,000  
21 homeless veterans today, and recovery facilities are  
22 scarce, especially in small urban and rural areas, with  
23 an estimated 30,000-recovery-bed shortage, including  
24 a shortage of 8,000 beds for the two-year Department  
25 of Veterans Affairs-funded transitional program for  
26 homeless veterans; and  
27 WHEREAS, homelessness among veterans has for years

1 been considered a local and regional problem, as local  
2 citizens can best reintegrate the local soldier into  
3 the fabric of local society; and

4 WHEREAS, this local problem creates a need for a  
5 veterans national recovery center because nothing  
6 similar exists today for homeless veterans; and

7 WHEREAS, a vision exists in which homeless veterans  
8 from around the region and nation can access an  
9 integrated services center that provides training,  
10 counseling, personal connectivity from outside  
11 providers to create an environment that can lift the  
12 spirits and aspirations of even the most discouraged  
13 homeless veteran, to give veterans from underserved  
14 areas, both rural and suburban, priority services,  
15 and to conduct needed research into the solutions for  
16 homelessness among veterans; and

17 WHEREAS, the integrated services center could  
18 network with national corporations at the highest level  
19 to provide job and living opportunities across the  
20 country to homeless veterans that have progressed to  
21 psychological stability and self-sufficiency; and

22 WHEREAS, base funding is available for operations  
23 through programs promoted by the United States  
24 Department of Veterans Affairs, including a capitals  
25 program, a transportation program, and a two-year  
26 program intended to transition the homeless veteran  
27 from the street to a working, stable home; and

28 WHEREAS, the former Veterans Affairs Hospital  
29 campus at Knoxville, Iowa, is available and has the  
30 capacity to support the veterans national recovery

1 center for veterans who are homeless or have suffered  
2 from post-traumatic stress disorders or traumatic  
3 brain injuries, and can provide jobs for veterans and  
4 nonveterans alike and economic development to the  
5 area; NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE, THE HOUSE OF  
7 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly  
8 of the State of Iowa views the establishment of a  
9 veterans national recovery center at the former  
10 Veterans Affairs Hospital campus in Knoxville, Iowa,  
11 favorably and urges the United States Department of  
12 Veterans Affairs to take those actions necessary to  
13 implement the center's establishment.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, the  
15 Secretary of the Senate immediately transmit a copy  
16 of this resolution to the Honorable Eric Shinseki,  
17 Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans  
18 Affairs.